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WITHHOLD JUDGMENT ON PEACE NOTE, OFFICIALS WARN GERMAN SOUTHERN FRONT IS IN PRECIPITATE RETREAT NO ARMISTICE UNTIL HUN IS OUT OF ALLIES' TERRITORY

EXTREME CAUTION DUE

Washington Believes Effort Made to Prolong Negotiations.

TO EVADE DEFEAT

Military Men Say Evacuation Would Put German Armies In Strong Place.

Washington, Oct. 13.—President Wilson, accompanied by Colonel House, his confidential adviser, returned to the capital tonight from New York.

The president has reached a decision on the German reply to his note of inquiry, but he will not act until the official text of the note is delivered to the state department by Frederick Oederlin, the Swiss charge d'affaires.

EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESIDENT

Washington, Oct. 13.—Germany's answer to President Wilson's note of inquiry has created a deep and profound interest among the members of both branches of congress.

There is a noticeable feeling of expectancy of further important developments. Both senators and members of the house exhibit less readiness to express their opinions in the absence of a knowledge of all the facts which may be in the possession of the president and Secretary Lansing.

Significant comment is heard on the emphasis placed by the German foreign secretary upon the statement that the chancellor speaks in the name of "the German people" and the question is asked as to whether Germany is turning a new face to the American people, or whether it is the old face concealed behind a mask.

There seems to be a unanimity of opinion that whatever the next step may prove to be, nothing less than the passing of the house of Hohenzollern will satisfy the American people.

In the following statement of prominent senators and representatives express the range of congressional opinion on the subject.

Senator John K. Shields, of Tennessee, member committee on foreign affairs:

"The whole question is of such tremendous import that one can not fully grasp its significance without knowing all that the president and Secretary Lansing may know upon the subject. I have great confidence that President Wilson will so handle the situation as to bring about a just peace in the end. There is something suspicious in the manner in which Germany's ostensible acceptance of the president's principles was communicated to the world. If the purpose was to affect the morale of our army and the people at home, I believe it will fail. Personally, I believe Germany must be made to suffer the horrors of war, either by invasion or by the payment of tremendous indemnities, for the ruin and wrongs she has wrought so she may be deterred from ever disturbing the peace of the world again."

Senator Harry S. New, of Indiana: "Germany is evidently seeking to accomplish by diplomacy what she has failed to do with her armies. I greatly fear we are in more danger of a diplomatic defeat than we are from armed attack. For four years Germany has run amuck in the world. During this time she has crushed Belgium, devastated France, strangled Serbia and made a shambles of Russia. She has proved herself the greatest outlaw in history. Now that she feels that the tables are turned against her she appeals to a negotiated peace or that they will consent to it. The only end to this war which can or will be acceptable is the unconditional surrender of an enemy who has worked wreck and destruction for four years without conscience and without stint."

Senator Thomas P. Gore, Oklahoma: "Is it a new face that Germany is turning towards the American people or is it the same old face behind the mask? Since the president's note was sent I have been wondering what peace maneuver would be made to weaken the morale of the country, it is merely

APPARENT FALLING OFF OF DISEASE

No Complete Official Report of New Cases Is Now Available.

LESS THAN 5,000 TOTAL

Boy Scouts to Aid Today In Securing Accurate Lists From Physicians' Office Books.

The official report from John Marshall emergency hospital late last night, given out by Miss Randolph, was most encouraging. It indicated that cooperation was most manifest, and that as a result better work, and more favorable reports were being received.

Baker school will be opened for colored patients today, with a colored staff, operating, however, from general headquarters in John Marshall school.

"We are having a long list of G. Ps," said Miss Randolph, last night. "Know what that means? Well, it means 'Grateful Patients.' All good hospitals have a list. Our's will be a long one."

It was estimated last night that the number of cases of influenza in Richmond had reached 15,000. There was absolutely no way to verify this estimate, however, as many physicians have not reported the cases on their records, and the report received at the health office up to 4 o'clock, showed the small additional number of 144, which makes the official statement just 4,441 to date, with just six deaths from the malady for the day.

The scene at John Marshall Emergency hospital last night was an animated one. Many volunteer nurses and assistants were busy at their various vocations, which had been assigned them by the director. All were kept busy, and everything is being done to cut short the progress of the disease.

Deaths reported yesterday were, of course, from cases contracted some days ago, and with the small report of 144, as against an average of 300 for previous periods, the indications are that the disease is under control.

There can be no guess work about it. Conclusions must be drawn from the official report. This report indicates that there is a falling off, and that means that the splendid work of the health authorities has had its effect.

The report last Monday morning of 530 at noon, which embraced all

No Cessation in the Epidemic

Falling Off in New York City Is Encouraging to Health Department.

Washington, Oct. 13.—Tonight's bulletin issued by the United States public health service indicates no change in the general prevalence of Spanish influenza throughout the country. The disease is spreading rapidly in the Pacific coast states, with many new cases reported from California. Increasing fresh outbreaks also are reported from the south. In Massachusetts and in other New England states, where the disease has made its appearance, there is a continued improvement in conditions.

While fewer deaths from influenza in the national capital are reported for the last forty-eight hours, the situation here still is extremely serious owing to the abnormal congestion in working and living conditions. Notice has been given that the question of forbidding the incoming of out-of-town work workers will be taken up in the house tomorrow. The president is being pressed to issue a proclamation upon the necessity of protecting the national capital from further contagion by limiting travel to Washington for only the most essential war purposes.

HUNDREDS PERISH IN FOREST FIRES

6 VILLAGES GONE

Property Loss Runs Into Millions in Minnesota Holocaust.

Moose Lake Razed In 20 Minutes—Refugees Are Taken to St. Paul.

St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 13.—Estimates from all points in the zone swept by forest fires more than six villages wiped out and property loss that will run far into millions.

The number of dead at one is 163, while at another it is 100. The fires are still burning but the wind has abated somewhat.

The town of Schultz Lake is now on fire and meagre reports declare sixty persons are trapped.

The first relief train from the fire zone arrived late today in St. Paul, bringing more than 200 refugees. More than a score of these were injured and were taken to hospitals. Physicians, nurses and supplies have been sent to every available point.

Moose Lake, Minn., Oct. 13.—Bodies of sixty-five victims had been picked up along the roads west of Moose Lake and brought to improvised morgues here when dusk settled over the stricken town late today. Searchers are still traveling the countryside with trucks piled high with the tragic burdens. In one cellar the bodies of twelve persons were found, accounting for every member of two families.

Autobiles were piled in confusion at points in the sandy roads where they had stuck and collided in a mad rush for safety. At one point five cars were piled in a heap and near by the bodies of the victims. Along the roads were found the bodies of mothers with babies clasped to their lifeless breasts and children clinging together.

Through the yellow pall of pine smoke that hung low over the ruins of Moose Lake, frightened mothers carried their children in arms and others tied to the apron strings, to guard against separation, conducted a frantic and often hopeless search for missing husbands and fathers.

After sweeping Moose Lake in less than twenty minutes, flames leaped three-quarters of a mile across the lake, igniting the brush and trees on the opposite side like so much tinder.

Telegraph poles were cut off like straws before a scythe. Railroad ties were consumed in the earth and the rails themselves twisted and bent.

Duluth, Minn., Oct. 13.—With more than 500 persons estimated dead or missing, at least 13,000 made homeless and forty towns wiped out, five terrific forest fires are sweeping across the northern parts of Wisconsin and Minnesota, laying a trail of desolation and ruin in their wake.

The towns which are destroyed are Cloquette, Brookston, Brewster, Corona, Adolpho, Oden, Onida, Carey, Boney, Bundy, Thompson, Arnold, Lake Moose and Wright. Refugees who fled through the ruins of these towns in their effort to escape the flames declared they had seen many charred bodies in the smoldering ashes. In the Duluth morgue tonight were twenty-five bodies, twenty-nine of which have been in some measure identified.

Besides these, hundreds of small settlements and isolated homes of settlers have been destroyed. One train that he is still quartermaster-general. One of his functions in that capacity is the issuance of the daily reports on the fighting.

OVER \$200,000 RAISED BY LIBERTY LOAN CANVASSERS

Activity of Patriots Creates Spirit of Cooperation All Around.

Portion of City Not Reached Yesterday Will Be Taken In Hand Tonight.

Richmond subscribed approximately \$200,000 yesterday in the greatest house-to-house campaign ever staged in this city in the interest of Liberty bonds and nearly 1,000 subscribers were obtained.

Members of the campaign committee declared last night that practically every sale which was made yesterday would not have been made but for the great drive. People were reached and interviewed who could not time be reached at any other time before the close of the movement on Saturday night, and the showing was so encouraging that bankers declared Richmond would undoubtedly raise her quota.

This assertion, however, was based on the belief that the response to the government's call for money would continue as it has during the past three days. There is great enthusiasm in every section of the city, according to reports by the 200 canvassers who worked yesterday, and this has been heightened by encouraging war news.

While Richmonders are extremely optimistic over the situation as it stands today, there is an almost universal opinion that the allies should press the German government to surrender. The German government, Liberty loan workers found. For the first time it seems that the Hun is being beaten at his own game, and prominent business men yesterday expressed the opinion, based upon reports, that Germany was simply seeking to salvage something out of the wreckage and extricate her armies from the disastrous position in which they find themselves.

Additional Purchases. This universal feeling crystallized itself in additional purchases of Liberty bonds, for scores of people who had already bought all the bonds they thought they could afford increased their subscriptions yesterday. They wanted to drive "another nail in the Kaiser's coffin," they said. This spirit resulted in heavy subscriptions yesterday, and will put Richmond "over the top" in the fourth Liberty loan drive before the campaign closes.

Nearly two hundred workers reported to Liberty loan headquarters at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning and heard special instructions for the canvassers. Committees of two men were formed and each committee assigned a district. Many men canvassed their districts and returned later in the day for other assignments. The canvassers kept up without abatement until late in the afternoon and headquarters was the scene of the utmost activity as canvassers reported and received new districts to canvass.

Despite the great number of influenza cases in the city the canvassers were accorded a wonderful reception by the people of Richmond. Subscriptions came easy when the mission was explained and the canvassers became extremely enthusiastic over their work.

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90,000 PRISONERS SINCE SEPT. 1

Paris, Oct. 13.—"Since September 15, including the Bulgarian-German troops surrendered according to the armistice," says a war office statement, "the allies have captured 90,000 prisoners including 1,600 officers."

"Among the officers are five generals. Two thousand guns and enormous quantities of material also have been taken."

The above statement, referring to "Bulgarian-German troops," is the first indication that German units fighting with the Bulgars surrendered.

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WAR DEPARTMENT GOES RIGHT AHEAD WITH GREAT TASK

Baker, Back from War, Unchecked by Huns' Talk of Peace.

Co-operation of All Allied Nations Is Now Arranged.

Washington, Oct. 13.—"Whatever the result of the peace proposals, the war department must proceed at full speed with men and supplies." This was the comment on the German peace talk tonight from Secretary of War Baker, on his return from a visit of more than a month to the western front.

Exuberant with confidence of great victory and praise of the bravery of the Americans, Secretary Baker arrived early this morning at an Atlantic port aboard the Northern Pacific, called by the Germans the "Ghost Ship."

The "ghost ship" escaped the U-boat that sank the Hirono Maru a few days ago only through the extreme precautions taken to protect the secretary of war and his party, which included John L. Ryan, second assistant secretary of war, Brigadier-General Frank L. Hines, chief of the embarkation service; Walter Gifford, director of the council of national defense; John Rosewood, of the council; Captain R. E. Christie, Jr., and Mr. Ryan; Joseph H. Hostler, of Cleveland, former law partner of Secretary Baker, and Charles Day, of the United States shipping board.

The presence of a submarine lurking in the course in which the Hirono was sunk was "spotted," and the Northern Pacific was diverted. The secretary had the protection of naval convoys, however, only for two days out of Brest, which was cleared October 6, at daylight. The rest of the way she came alone, making the speed that carried her the German "ghost ship" sobriquet.

Secretary Baker saw both battles of St. Mihiel, and described the taking of the town and wiping out of the salient by the Americans as the greatest concentration of artillery and aircraft ever seen in this war. He asserted he took the morning after it was evacuated.

Discussing the purposes of his trip to the front and his experiences there, Secretary Baker said, in part: "My trip abroad was principally for the purpose of arranging further co-operation in the matter of shipping for troops and supplies. It was entirely successful, and a complete understanding has been reached which assures the American army adequate cargo tonnage for its support. The matter was taken up with the inter-allied maritime transport council, and the cooperation of the British, French and Italian governments was heartily given."

Many questions involving co-operation on the part of the several governments were taken up and satisfactorily settled.

"With regard to shipping aircraft, ordnance and other parts of the allied program, the contribution which the United States can make is rendered definite and the means of accomplishment are arranged."

"The allied armies are now in the full tide of victorious advance. American divisions are fighting with the British, with the French, and in their own sectors, and everywhere the enemy is in retreat and disorder."

"The army has done and is doing all that a proud and grateful country could ask, and the time has come for us to put in every ounce of our strength to assure its complete victory."

"The people at home have a solemn responsibility for their share in the final results."

"The Liberty loan must go over the top. Its success is our message of gratitude to the boys, and a message to Germany that our people at home

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NOW IN STRETCH FOR LIBERTY BONDS

Assume the Task of Going Over the Top This Week.

MUST GET \$3,000,000,000

Treasury Officials Confident the People Will Push the Figure Far Over the Edge.

Washington, Oct. 13.—The task ahead of the American people of putting the fourth Liberty loan "over the top" during the remaining six days of the present week, though requiring the sale of about three billion dollars worth of bonds, can be accomplished.

That it must be done seems to be recognized by every American citizen who has paused to consider the incalculable damage to the allied cause which would result from the slightest undersubscription.

That it will be done is confidently expected by treasury officials since the receipt today of telegrams from all sections of the country reflecting a new spirit of determination following a full realization of the present imperilled status of the loan.

Official figures of Liberty day's harvest of new subscriptions are still lacking. It is certain from information which has reached here, however, the subscriptions to date, reported and unreported, will not exceed more than one-half of the \$6,000,000,000 asked by the government.

Thus the campaign will enter upon its last six days tomorrow with at least \$2,000,000,000 to be raised at the rate of half a billion dollars a day.

—Buy Liberty Bonds—

LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR CITY SLACKERS

Increase Pay for Employees Who Have Stuck By the Ship of State.

SUM OF \$25,000 NEEDED

Board of Aldermen to Act On Resolution Making Appropriation for Increases Tomorrow Night.

The board of aldermen will act upon the salary increase resolution at the October meeting of that body tomorrow night, and if the work of common council in adopting the measure is concurred in the city employees effected will receive a substantial increase beginning October 16.

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GERMANS DESERT LAON

Two Openings Remain For Get-Away of the Hun.

LONG DASH AHEAD

While Max Timmermann's Armistice, Foch Hopes for Fleeing Heels of Whipped Hun.

London, Oct. 13.—Ludendorff anchor of the whole German battle line on the western front, has been cast off by Ludendorff under Foch's terrific pressure from four sides, and tonight the whole German southern front is in precipitate retreat.

The city is virtually in allied hands. The French have entered its outskirts and not a single German is left in the town.

Only two lines of retreat are still open to the huge German forces in the Laon pocket—estimated at a quarter of a million—that to Hirson and to Mezieres. The Germans cannot stop now until they have fled to the approaches of these places, which means that their flight must continue for between thirty and fifty miles northeastward.

With the southern pivot gone, Lille, the northern hinge, practically "hangs in the air" and the retreat must presently extend over the whole 100-mile front between the north of Rheims and the North sea.

Douai, the "crutch" south of Lille, on which that stronghold has been leaning for weeks, is falling. Unofficially the British are reported fighting in its suburbs.

La Fere, which was to Laon what Douai has been to Lille, has been occupied by the French. It lies a little more than twelve miles northwest of Laon. The French there are driving hard and fast after the Germans, while Debeney's French first army, to the north, may at any moment sweep across the Oise and dash to the Laon-Hirson railway via Guise to cut off part of the mass of troops now clogging this avenue of escape in its flight.

Almost due west of Laon, Gouraud's army north of Rheims has crossed the Aisne and is smashing against the left flank of the German Laon army, threatening to cut the other rail of retreat between Laon and Mezieres.

Tonight the whole German western armies indeed resemble what Baron Ardenne feared a few weeks ago it would be like—"a stag surrounded by raging hounds threatening to give the coup de grace."

While the Baden prince is frantically trying to hurry an armistice to effect the evacuation in safety, Foch's armies are hammering hot on the foe's heels all along the front.

Ludendorff himself realizes the disaster staring him in the face and is trying to make his countrymen see it lest there be opposition to an armistice. He has discarded all camouflage and conveys the seriousness of the situation in his war bulletins.

Today he spoke of the "penetrating" the German positions on both sides of

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Serious Quake in Caribbean Sea

Washington, Oct. 13.—The navy department has received a dispatch from Havana stating that information has reached there that a serious earthquake occurred in Porto Rico. Cable communication with San Juan was interrupted, but the city is believed to be safe, though buildings were cracked. It was reported that the town of Aguadilla was submerged by a tidal wave.

Ponce and Abinoto suffered serious damage, and a number of persons were killed, according to the reports received at Havana.

—Buy Liberty Bonds—